

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 OMB-01 GAC-01 /094 R

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R 190048 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS

SUBJECT: NEWS REPORT ON SADAT SECRET OFFER

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS TEXT OF CBS NEWS
REPORT BY TOM FENTON FROM TEL AVIV CARRIED HERE MAY 18.

QUOTE: CBS NEWS HAS LEARNED THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT
SADAT MADE A SECRET OFFER OF UNCONDITIONAL TALKS WITH
THE ISRAELIS A YEAR AND A HALF AGO. THE ISRAELIS NEVER
TOOK UP THE OFFER DESPITE THEIR PUBLICLY PROCLAIMED
READINESS TO MEET WITH THE EGYPTIANS ANY TIME ANY PLACE
AS LONG AS THERE WERE NO PRIOR CONDITIONS. SADAT' S
AGREEMENT TO HOLD SO- CALLED PROXIMITY TALKS IN ADJOINING
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ROOMS WAS CONVEYED TO ISRAELI LEADERS BY THE US GOVERNMENT. THE ISRAELIS WERE GIVEN THE NAME OF SADAT'S EMISSARY, THE PROPOSED SITE FOR THE TALKS IN A NEW YORK CITY HOTEL, AND ACCORDING TO QUALIFIED SOURCES THE FACT THAT THE EGYPTIANS WERE PROPOSING NO PRIOR CONDITIONS. FACED WITH THE EGYPTIAN OFFER THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE STALLED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS UNTIL THE PEACE EFFORT COLLAPSED- END QUOTE.

2. THERE WAS QUESTION ON THIS SUBJECT AT DEPT'S NOON BRIEFING MAY 18, ERRONEOUSLY CITING BEIRUT AS ORIGIN OF REPORT. QUESTION AND SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSE BEING SENT SEPTEL. RUSH

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